

Message Text

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46

ACTION AF-18

INFO OCT-01 EUR-25 ISO-00 IO-14 OMB-01 CIAE-00 DODE-00

PM-07 H-03 INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-07 PA-04 RSC-01

PRS-01 SP-03 SS-20 USIA-15 PC-04 AID-20 NIC-01 ACDA-19

AEC-11 SCI-06 FEA-02 EB-11 DRC-01 /208 W

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R 190735Z APR 74

FM AMEMBASSY COTONOU

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 6094

INFO AMEMBASSY PARIS

AMEMBASSY ACCRA

AMEMBASSY LAGOS

AMEMBASSY LOME

AMEMBASSY ABIDJAN

AMEMBASSY OUAGADOUMMW

C O N F I D E N T I A L COTONOU 0630

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, FR, NG, DM

SUBJECT: DAHOMEAN REACTION TO NIGER COUP

1. THERE HAS BEEN NO PUBLIC REACTION AS YET FROM MRGD TO THE NIGERIEN COUP. OFFICIAL NEWS MEDIA HAVE CARRIED INTERNATIONAL WIRE SERVICE REPORTS WITHOUT EDITORIAL COMMENT. EVENT HAS, HOWEVER, ELICITED INTEREST AMONG POLITICALLY SOPHISTICATED DAHOMEANS. MANY CYNICAL DAHOMEANS ASSUMING FRENCH ENGINEERED COUP BECAUSE OF DIFFICULTY THEY WERE HAVING WITH DIORI GOVERNMENT IN URANIUM NEGOTIATIONS.

2. ASSUME MRGD MEMBERS WILL VIEW TAKEOVER BY THEIR NIGERIEN COLLEAGUES WITH SYMPATHY. RELATIONS BETWEEN TWO COUNTRIES UNLIKELY BE DISTURBED, AND MAY EVEN BECOME MORE INTIMATE. MANY OLDER DAHOMEAN MILITARY HAVE CLOSE PERSONAL RELATIONS WITH NIGERIEN
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COUNTERPARTS WITH WHOM THEY SERVED AS YOUNG SOLDIERS

IN FRENCH COLONIAL ARMY UNITS PRIOR TO INDEPENDENCE.
MCNAMARA

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NNN

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
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Disposition History: n/a
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